

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

November 29, 2001

The House of Representatives yesterday took a bold step to ensure that we fully fund the war on terrorism. I commend the passage of the Defense Appropriation and the commitment it embodies to ensure that, even in war times, we be careful stewards of the taxpayers' money. We will fully support our troops in the field, provide the funds necessary to recover from the Sep-

tember 11th attacks, and spend whatever is necessary to defend our homeland. The agreement I reached with Congress in October provides sufficient funds to accomplish these goals at this time. I, therefore, urge the Senate to pass the Defense Appropriation without adding unwise spending that is not currently necessary.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Terrorism Risk Insurance Legislation

November 29, 2001

I commend the House for taking an important step toward ensuring the continued availability of insurance for terrorist-related acts and for ensuring that victims of terrorism don't also become subjects of unfair

lawsuits. Access to affordable insurance is necessary for a stable and productive economy where builders continue to build and investors continue to invest. It is time for the Senate to focus on this important issue.

Remarks at a Viewing of "Mark Twain Tonight"

November 29, 2001

Well, thank you all very much, and good evening. Tonight we'll see an extraordinary performer celebrating an extraordinary American life. And it is my honor to welcome you all here.

I particularly want to welcome Dixie Carter. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. I want to say to the students, thank you for coming, and thank you for taking interest in American literature. I want to thank your teachers, as well, and all the scholars who have studied the life and work of Mark Twain.

It's also my honor to introduce our host this evening. This performance helps mark the beginning of a series titled "A White House Salute to American Authors." Promoting American writers is one of Laura's, our First Lady's, projects as well as an enduring commitment in all her life.

All America has seen her love of learning and her love of literature. All of America has seen her grace and concern for children in a difficult time for our Nation. Our country is blessed by her calm and compassion, and I am blessed by her encouragement and her love.

Laura Bush.

Nov. 29 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. at Ford's Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Dixie Carter. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Statement on Congressional Action on Mexican Motor Carrier Legislation *November 30, 2001*

The compromise reached by the House and Senate appropriators on Mexican trucking is an important victory for safety and free trade. We must promote the highest level of safety and security on American highways while meeting our commitments to our friends to the South. The compromise reached by the conferees will achieve these twin objectives by permitting our border to be opened in a timely manner and ensuring that all United States safety standards will be applied to every truck and bus operating on our highways.

Statement on the Resignation of Governor James S. Gilmore III of Virginia as Republican National Committee Chairman *November 30, 2001*

Jim Gilmore is a close friend and valuable ally. He answered my call to lead the Republican Party through a challenging and dynamic election. He has done so with fervor and conviction. He has advanced our principles of limited but active government and promoted compassionate priorities that strengthen American families, keep Americans safe, and encourage individual responsibility.

There are few who embody public service the way that Jim Gilmore does, serving

as Governor of Virginia, chairman of a national commission on terrorism, and leader of the national Republican Party all in the same year.

There is no greater priority on this Earth than one's family, and I respect and understand the decision Governor Gilmore has made. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors and will continue to seek his wise counsel as a friend and confidante.

The President's Radio Address *December 1, 2001*

Good morning. This week, the official announcement came that our economy has been in recession since March. And unfortunately, to a lot of Americans, that news comes as no surprise. Many have lost jobs

or seen their hours cut. Many have seen friends or family laid off.

The long economic expansion that started 10 years ago, in 1991, began to slow last year. Many economists warned me when I took office that a recession was beginning,